Involvement of media and entertainment industry in consultative process

2949. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether FICCI and India Inc. have proposed and made strong case for the involvement of media and entertainment industry in consultative process;

(b) whether FICCI has highlighted implications of the proposed Bill on Media Industry and has sought clarification on several points;

(c) whether FICCI has pointed out that media restriction clause in the proposed Bill would call for major corporate restructuring by media companies (foreign and domestic operating in India) with serious financial implications and suggested to make Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India an autonomous body; and

(d) whether Government have considered their views and suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) A meeting was held on 14.8.2006 in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to discuss the draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill with various industry and media groups. Representatives of FICCI had also attended the meeting and had expressed their views on different aspects of the proposed Bill including the cross media holding issues. This Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have also invited the comments of the general public and stakeholders on the draft of the proposed Bill which along with a consultation paper has been posted on the website of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (www.mib.nic.in). Therefore at the time of framing of the proposal, the views of all concerned will be taken into consideration.

Advertisements during broadcasting of news

2950. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the running hours of the T.V. channels under the

direct control of Prasar Bharati which is being spent in publicing advertisements;

(b) the utility of allowing advertisements in the middle of the news broadcast, thereby disturbing the sequence of attention towards the news;

(c) whether the frequency of advertisements is more rapid in the private channels on the average; and

(d) the number of cases of censures as issued in regulating and control of standard and quality in the presentation of serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that twenty five per cent of each half an hour transmission slot on Dooradarshan channels is available for carrying advertisements, programme promotion etc.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the placement of advertisements in News bulletins is done in a manner to ensure accrual of commercial revenue to Doordarshan without in any way impairing the News component.

(c) The Government does not maintain any record of the frequency of advertisements telecast on the private channels.

(d) The Government does not have control on the standard and quality in the presentation of serials telecast by private TV Channels.

RTI Act

†2951. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the copies of confidential papers/notings are being sought under the Right to Information Act;

(b) the number of such applications rejected during the year 2006 till 30th June; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORAMTION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) In so far as this Ministry is concerned, all the applications received under the Right to Information Act, 2005 are considered as per the various provisions contained in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.